

Flight Jacket

Vol. 3, No. 47

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

Dec. 7, 2001

13th MEU ships out early for war on terrorism

By Staff Sgt. Bill Lisbon and Sgt. Nathan Ferbert

CPAO, MCB Camp Pendleton and 13th MEU

USS BONHOMME RICHARD – After a shortened, jam-packed four-and-a-half-month pre-deployment cycle, the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) set sail from the San Diego Naval Station Saturday.

The approximately 2,200 Marines and Sailors on board the *USS Bonhomme Richard*, *Ogden* and *Pearl Harbor* got a star-studded send off Friday when the Commandant, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps and a handful of celebrities came to wish them luck.

“Every once in awhile in our lives, you get a chance to make a difference,” Gen. James L. Jones told Marines on the *Bonhomme Richard*. “Sometimes you get an opportunity to do something on a major scale.”

Gerald McRaney, who starred in the ABC sitcom “Major Dad,” said, “The world has been infected with a virus called terrorism, and the cure for that virus is the United States Marine Corps and the United States Navy.”

Other celebrities came to visit the MEU, though most were from their parents era, including Connie Stevens, Barbi Benton, James Hyde, Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr. Before joining the 15th MEU and other military forces in the Afghanistan region, the MEU will stop in Hawaii, where the crew and Marines of the *USS Pearl Harbor* are scheduled to take place in the 60th anniversary ceremony of the attack on Pearl Harbor Friday on the island of Oahu. Meanwhile, those aboard the *Ogden* and *Bonhomme Richard* will face the colder temperatures and high elevation of the “big island” for four days of sustainment training.

The unit was scheduled for a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf regions in mid-January, but was called on to deploy a month and a half early in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States and subsequent military operations in Afghanistan, “The Fighting 13th” has bumped up and beefed up its special operations training.



Marines Cpl. David Amaya, left, and Lance Cpl. Juan Moran, CH-53E aviation technicians with HMM-165 from Miramar, walk toward their new home on the *USS Bonhomme Richard* last Friday. Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Lisbon

Although the schedule was moved up considerably, the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton ensured the 13th MEU met all of the qualifications of a special operations capable MEU. The MEU completed more than a dozen maritime special purpose ship-to-shore missions during SOCEX and an additional long-range helicopter raid and a Vessel Board, Search and Seizure exercise in November.

The MEU earned the SOC title Nov. 20 and began packing and planning to embark aboard the *Bonhomme Richard* Amphibious Ready Group. Aboard the ships, leathernecks

work alongside Sailors of the Amphibious Squadron Three.

The busy schedule before departure left little time for Marines and Sailors to spend with family members. Leaving family to serve the country in a time of need made for a difficult, yet meaningful deployment.

Major Alex G. Hetherington, the Aviation Combat Element's safety officer and an AH-1W Super Cobra pilot, said goodbye to his wife of five years, Karen, a 20-month

See **Deploy**, page 10

New state law changes child car seat regulations

By Sgt. Mike Camacho

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Just when it seems like you understand all of the ever-changing child seat laws in California, another one hits. Because changes could be costly, it's important to plan ahead. It's also important to understand the changes are put into effect for a reason.

Parents would never want to endanger their children. The child seat law is designed to decrease the risk of injury.

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” said Dorothy Domich, registered nurse and Marine New Parent Support home visitor and educator.

The current law states that a child must be properly secured in a child restraint until at least four years old and 40 pounds. After four years or 40 pounds, the law permits the

use of a properly fitted safety belt.

The new law, going into effect January 1, 2002, requires a child to be properly secured in a child restraint, including boosters, until the child is either six years old or 60 pounds. After six or 60 pounds, the law permits use of a properly fitted safety belt.

It is also important to recognize that most children do not properly fit in a seat belt until at least age eight. So, while the law may state what is legal or not legal for a child, it may be important to make an safety assessment based on your child's size and fit.

It is relatively affordable to purchase a proper seat, but it could be much more expensive if fined. The first fine can be up to \$270, with additional fines at \$475 and more.

For more information on child seats call the Miramar New Parent Support Program at 577-9812.



Housing fired up

Federal fire investigators discuss the aftermath of a blaze that struck Murphy Canyon housing at approximately 5:30 a.m. Wednesday. The structure was vacant due to renovations and no injuries were reported. According to Capt. Javier Mainar, fire investigator, City of San Diego, the fire was declared

arson. A second structure nearby also was set on fire, but diminished itself with minimal damage. This is the third case of arson in the area within the last year. Mainar said there have been recent reports of children being in the buildings.

Photo by Sgt. Tisha L. Carter

Commandant approves new uniform changes

By Cpl. Mark P. Ledesma

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

General James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps, recently approved changes to the sea bag uniform issue.

According to All-Marine Message 059/01, Marines must now possess two sea bags by Oct. 1, 2009.

All brass on belts, buckles, buttons, insignias, tie clasp, 27-line screw posts, and waist plates must be anodized brass. A uniform allowance for the anodized items will begin Oct. 1, 2002.

Green and blue crew-neck sweaters with epaulettes will replace the green and blue V-neck sweaters. Officer shoulder grade insignia and enlisted collar grade insignia will be worn on the epaulettes, in the same manner as depicted for the officer service uniform.

Enlisted rank insignia will be worn centered with the midpoint of the insignia's outer edge three-fourths of an inch from the armhole seam.

Officers will wear their insignias on both the sweater epaulettes and the shirt collar. Enlisted Marines will no longer wear insignias on the collar of their shirts.

Both green and blue crew-neck sweaters without epaulettes will no longer be authorized after Oct. 1, 2005. The mandatory possession date for the new sweaters will be Oct. 1, 2005.

The number of long sleeve khaki shirts issued will now be reduced from three to two. Uniform allowance for the third long sleeve shirt will end Oct. 1, 2002. Marines who entered the Marine Corps prior to Oct. 1, 2002 will be required to maintain three long-sleeve khaki shirts until they purchase the green crew-neck sweater with epaulettes.

Marines are now required to have three pairs of physical training trunks. Reflective safety belts will be required by Oct. 1, 2005. Uniform allowance for the safety belts has already begun. Blue dress skirts for females will no longer be issued. Dress skirts will now be optional. Females will also be issued only one green skirt. By Oct. 1, 2005, females will now be required to have two pairs of green slacks.

For more information on the new sea bag issue visit www.usmc.mil/almars.



Stick it to him

Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael D. Smaltz, Branch Medical Clinic corpsman, administers a flu shot to a service member of Headquarters and Headquarters

Squadron. The mandatory annual flu shots are given to everyone aboard the Station to keep Marines and Sailors healthy. Photo by Sgt. Mike Camacho

Group 16 tries novel approach to safety

By Sgt. Carolyn S. Sittig

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

One of the few places a Marine could hope to find information about rip tides, the attack on the *USS Cole*, how to properly maintain their cars and other safety tips in one place was at the Marine Aircraft Group 16 Safety Fair Nov. 20-21 at Hangar 5.

"The emphasis of the fair was 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing mishaps and injuries and methods of prevention. Our goal for fiscal year 2002 is to reduce all categories of mishaps by 25 percent. The Safety Fair was the catalyst for this effort," said Lt. Col. James Sanny, MAG-16 Personnel Support Division commanding officer and director of safety and standardization.

The safety fair had 10 booths, each focusing on a different safety topic. The topics included: automotive safety, motorcycle (on and off-road) safety, anti-terrorism/force protection safety, water safety, personal training safety, personal readiness/anthrax safety, traffic and anti-theft safety, home fire/household hazardous material safety, suicide prevention, and firearms safety.

Marines were divided into groups and would spend eight to 10 minutes at each booth before moving to the next one. The concept of having booths where individual squadrons rotate through every two hours was masterminded by Sanny and the DOSS personnel.

The event also had squadron stores selling their wares and a food court offering food and beverages.

The safety fair is one concept MAG-16 is using to deviate from the typical mass briefings.

"The goal of the fair was to create interactive and informative sessions and to give a wide variety of briefings in a short period of time. In previous safety stand-downs, the entire MAG is assembled in the auditorium to listen to the briefs normally for an entire day," said Sanny. "Obviously Marines become bored sitting and listening to these redundant briefs. The impact of a squadron receiving 10 different themes at 10-minute rotations had a tremendous value toward keeping their attention span focused on the briefs while putting out a variety of much-needed information."

Another benefit of the fair was the small-sized groups encouraged people who might normally be reluctant to ask questions to speak out, said Sgt. David Darnell, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 maintenance administration data analyst and 25-year-old Palmsdale native.

The group took a psychological approach with this safety stand-down. Once Marines rotated through the booths it was hoped that they would store away information that will make them think about safety if they ever have a real life experience.

The fair had visual aids such as Harley Davidson motorcycles, classic muscle cars, all-terrain vehicles, videos, physical fitness equipment all designed to draw the Marine's attention and keep their interest for each booth. All squadron booth sponsors wore clothes and equipment to match their particular theme, said Sanny.

Many Marines commented that this was a good change of pace and that their interest and learning curves went up



Santa Claus is flying to town

Santa arrives at Miramar's Mills Park in a UH-1N Huey from Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 775, "Coyotes," during MAG-46's Family Day. After Santa landed, he handed out a various gifts from his giant toy bag to MAG-46 family members. "This is a unique

opportunity to say thank you to the wives, children and Marines," said Col. "Sonny" Liston, MAG-46 commanding officer. "If this in some way says thank you, then it's the right thing to do." Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington

Estrada assumes 3rd MAW sergeant major post



Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada

By Sgt. W. A. Napper

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Sergeant Maj. John L. Estrada assumed his new post as the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing sergeant major from Sgt. Maj. Donald R. Franklin today during a post and relief ceremony at the Air Operations building here.

Franklin is retiring after 30 years of service to begin a second career in the civilian sector. He and his family are staying in the local area.

Estrada enlisted in the Corps Sept. 5, 1973. After graduating from Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., he completed F-4 Phantom aircraft maintenance school at Naval Air Station Memphis, Tenn., and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. Estrada was then assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 451 at MCAS Beaufort, S.C., in March 1974.

In December that same year, Estrada transferred to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. Four months later he was meritoriously promoted to corporal. In February 1976, Estrada transferred to MCAS Yuma, Ariz., with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101. One year later he transferred again to MCAS El Toro to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314. In December 1978 he was reassigned to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323, and then deployed with the squadron to the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Coral Sea*.

In June 1980 Estrada transferred to Marine Reserve Fighter Attack Squadron 321 at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. He received orders in August 1982 to the drill field at MCRD San Diego. While there he served with Kilo Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion.

In January 1984 Estrada was meritoriously promoted to gunnery sergeant, then 10 months later transferred to MCAS Beaufort as a part of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 451. While with the squadron he deployed to the Western Pacific with the Unit Deployment Program.



Sgt. Maj. Donald R. Franklin

Next, Estrada attended aircraft maintenance schools at NAS Cecil Field and NAS Jacksonville, Fla., in 1987 for retraining as an F/A-18 Hornet hydraulic and structural mechanic. In October Estrada received orders to return to the drill field, this time at MCRD Parris Island. He served as the series chief drill instructor with India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion. Following that, he served as the drill master at the Drill Instructor School until October 1990, when he was promoted to first sergeant.

For the next five years, Estrada served as the first sergeant for several commands, including the 3rd Surveillance Reconnaissance and Intelligence Group at Camp Hanson, Okinawa, Japan; Marine Security Force Company, NAS Norfolk, Va.; 1st Force Service Support Group, 1st Maintenance Battalion, Electronic Maintenance Company, MCB Camp Pendleton; and 1st Marine Division, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Alpha Company at MCB Camp Pendleton.

In March 1995 Estrada was frocked to his present rank and served as the sergeant major for Battalion Landing Team 2/1, 1st Marine Division, at Camp Pendleton, and deployed with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) and the 15th MEU (SOC) to the Western Pacific and the Arabian Gulf.

In May 1998 Estrada became the sergeant major for Recruiting Station Sacramento in the 12th Marine Corps District, Western Recruiting Region. Following that assignment, Estrada was the recruit training regiment sergeant major at MCRD Parris Island.

His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Estrada is married to the former Midge Riddell of Sacramento.

They have four children – Erika, John Jr., Ellen and Mitchell.

Peters takes over Greyhawks

By Sgt. W.A. Napper

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Lieutenant Col. Mark E. Peters assumed command of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161 from Lt. Col. John W. Bullard today, in a change of command ceremony at Hanger 6.



Lt. Col. Mark E. Peters

Bullard is transferring to Marine Aircraft Group 16 to assume the executive officer billet. Peters graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in 1983 and earned his commission in May of that year. After graduating The Basic School, he reported to Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., and was designated a Naval Aviator in May 1986.

Peters completed CH-46 pilot training at MCAS Tustin, and was then transferred to HMM-165 at MCAS Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, in January 1987. After three years in the aloha state, he transferred to NAS Whiting Field, Fla., where he served in various billets in the operations department of Helicopter Training Squadron 8. In 1992 he was selected as the Chief of Naval Air Training Instructor of the Year and received the David S. Ingalls Award.

In September of 1993 Peters returned to Kaneohe, but was attached to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364 as the aircraft maintenance officer.

Two years later he returned stateside to work with the Nighthawks of Marine Helicopter Squadron 1 at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.



Lt. Col. John W. Bullard

During his time there he worked in the Operational Test and Evaluation Department, White House Liaison Office, and he attended the Command and Staff College.

After graduating in 2000 he reported to the Inspector General of the Marine Corps in July to become a member of the Inspection Division. In August he transferred to HMM-161 to serve as the executive officer.

His personal decorations include the Presidential Service Badge, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal and Navy Achievement Medal. Peters has logged more than 5,000 rotary-wing flight hours.

Peters is married to the former Kim Stratton of Newark, Del. They have three children – Mark, Nicole and Leslie.

AD space

OPSEC

Your life may depend on it

The Marines Have Landed – Again

By David H. Hackworth

Retired Army colonel and nationally syndicated columnist

The first non-special ops unit deployed to Afghanistan is the U.S. Marines Corps — no big surprise to this old Army doggie.

In World War II's South Pacific, Marines were "the firstus with the mostus" into the Solomons, and they led the way into Vietnam. In Korea, they landed second, but unlike the Army units initially deployed there, Gen. Edward Craig's Marine brigade hit the beach ready to fight. And without their skill, sacrifice and courage, the beleaguered 8th Army would've been pushed into the sea during the early months of the conflict. A similar scenario occurred during the early stages of Desert Storm, in which Marine units came in ready to fight while the first Army troops — the 82nd Airborne Division, with its insufficient anti-tank capability — were a potential speed bump waiting to be flattened.

The Corps, which has never lost sight that its primary mission is to fight, remains superbly trained and disciplined — true to its time-honored slogan "We don't promise a rose garden." When, under Clinton, the Army lowered its standards to Boy Scout summer-camp level in order to increase enlistment, the Corps responded by making boot training longer and tougher. Now under Marine Commandant James Jones, that training has gotten even meaner for the young Marine wannabes waiting in line to

join up, as well as for Leathernecks already serving in regular and reserve units.

Unlike U.S. Army conventional units — their new slogan, "An Army of One," says it all — the U.S. Marine Corps remains a highly mobile, fierce fighting team that has never forgotten: "The more sweat on the training field, the less blood on the battlefield."

The Marines are flexible, agile, ready and deadly, while the Army remains configured to fight the Soviets — who disappeared off the Order of Battle charts a decade ago. For example, right after Sept. 11, the two Army heavy divisions in Germany — with their 68-ton tanks that can crush almost every bridge they cross — deployed to Poland for war games.

Hello, is there a brain at the top somewhere beneath that snazzy black beret being modeled at most U.S. airports by too many overweight Army National Guard troops?

The Army has eight other regular divisions, all designed to fight 20th-century wars. Three are heavy — Tank and Mech Infantry — and two are light, the storied 82nd Airborne and the elite 101st Airborne (now helicopter), and then there's the light/heavy 10,000-man 2nd Division that's in Korea backing up a million-man, superbly fit South Korean Army.

Less the light divisions, our Army's not versatile, deployable, swift or sustainable. The heavy units require fleets of ships and planes to move them, and it takes months to get them there — it took Stormin' Norman

six months to ready a force for Desert Storm. The 101st — while deadly, as Desert Storm proved — is also a slow mover requiring a huge amount of strategic lift — ships and giant planes — to get to the battlefield, not to mention the massive tax-dollar load to outfit and maintain it.

Sadly, today's Army is like a street fighter with brass knuckles too heavy to lift.

After the Rangers' disaster in Somalia — where there were no tanks to break through to relieve them — and the embarrassment of not being able to fight in the war in Serbia, Army Chief of Staff Eric Shinseki started forming light brigades strikingly similar to Marine units. When I asked, "Why the copycatting?" an Army officer said, "It was either copy or go out of business. We'd become redundant because of long-term lack of boldness and imagination at the top."

The Army costs about \$80 billion a year to run.

It's time for Congress to do its duty and stop enjoying the benefits of all the pork this obsolescence and redundancy provides.

If the Army can't change with the times — as the powerful horse cavalry generals couldn't just prior to World War II — then it should fold up its tents and turn the ground-fighting mission over to the Marines.

The law of nature is simple: survival of the fittest.

And in the 21st century, heartbreaking as it is for me to admit, the forward-based and highly deployable U.S. Marine Corps is the fittest.

Many have different ways to celebrate holiday season

By Sgt. A.C. Strong

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

The Winter holiday season can be a wonderful time of year. Family dinners and singing as you decorate the tree brings a smile to the face of many of us during this holiday season. Everyone embraces and creates their own holiday traditions, and all the traditions change with the times, affecting the way, the day and even the name of our celebration.

Fasten your seatbelts, because this is bound to irritate a few die-hard Christmas fans.

Christmas is probably the most commonly celebrated holiday here in the United States. Christmas (Christ-Mass) as we know it today, is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Most historians agree, many of these holiday traditions began in Germany, though Catholics and Lutherans still disagree about which church celebrated it first. However, it goes back much further than that.

Actually, no one knows for sure what day Jesus Christ was born on. From the biblical description, most historians believe that his birth probably occurred in September, approximately six months after Passover.

One thing they agree on is that it is very unlikely that Jesus was born in December, since the bible mentions shepherds tending their sheep in the fields on that night. This is quite unlikely to have happened during a cold Judean winter. So why do we celebrate Christ's birthday as Christmas, on December the 25th?

In 350 A.D., in an attempt to make it as painless as possible for pagan Romans — the majority at the time — to convert to Chris-

tianity, Pope Julius I declared that Christ's birth would be celebrated on Dec. 25. In ancient Babylon, the feast of the son of Isis (goddess of nature) was celebrated on Dec. 25. The new religion went down a bit easier, knowing that they wouldn't have to give up all of their traditions.

I know, I know — many of you are probably fuming by now.

Lighten up, it's the holidays.

It's important to remember that Christmas-revelers are not the only ones celebrating.

Take Kwanza, for example. Kwanza, the swahili word for "first" is still pretty new to many of us. It is a festive, non-religious celebration beginning Dec. 26 and lasting seven days.

Founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, it is an opportunity for African Americans to celebrate and reflect on their rich cultural heritage. Each day one focuses on one of principles: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, co-operative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

There is an amazing amount of information about this holiday at the Web site: <http://www.si.edu/anacostia/kwanz.htm>.

Hanukkah is another winter holiday.

There are more spellings of this holiday than kindergartners at a Barney convention. It does have some beautiful traditions.

Hanukkah, meaning "dedication" in Hebrew refers to the joyous eight-day celebration during which Jews commemorate the victory of the Macabees over the armies of Syria in 165 B.C. and the subsequent liberation and "rededication" of the Temple in Jerusalem.

The modern home celebration of Hanuk-

kah centers around the lighting of the *chanukiah*, a special menorah, or La'Goyim: a light to all nations. For 2,000 years, the eight branches of the menorah have stood as a triumphant symbol of the Jewish will to live and worship in freedom. It is also an opportunity to sample unique foods, latkes and jelly doughnuts, and special songs and games.

The educational Web sites at: www.everythingjewish.com/Hanukah/significance and <http://db.education-world.com/> offer more info about this holiday.

Ramadan, more well-known now than in recent years, is a month-long fasting which is to teach Muslims to feel empathy for those who are less privileged and go without food. Fasting allows Muslims to share the suffering of their fellow man and understand the need to share resources with the less fortunate.

Ramadan is observed from mid-November to mid-December.

The holiday of Eid al-Fib is the last day of Ramadan. It is a day of celebration and feast enjoyed by Muslim communities worldwide.

It all boils down to this — we can all take this opportunity to learn a little more about our fellow man (or woman, just so we don't irk the "PC" police) — or you can sit at home and watch endless reruns of "It's a Wonderful Life", while completely missing the meaning.

Me? I'm kinda partial to the Grinch, myself.

So happy Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Christmas, Solstice, Ramadan — whatever... just celebrate safe and enjoy the time with your family and friends.

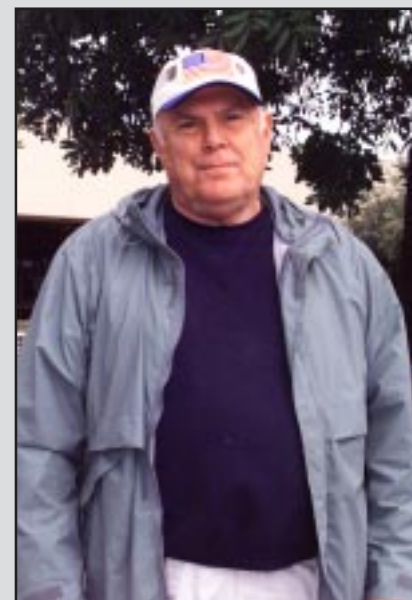
Mir Remarks

Looking back in history, has Pearl Harbor lost or gained significance since Sept. 11?



"Always been significant — complacency had set in and Sept. 11 made people more aware."

Capt. Eric Aschenbrenner, assistant powerline officer, VMFA(AW)-242.



"Depends upon generation — younger people may have lost sight, but Sept. 11 has brought it back into focus for them."

Tom Crow, former Master Chief of the Navy, Retired



"Gained — never can forget to learn from history and our mistakes."

Master Gunnery Sgt. Timothy Watts, logistics and embarkation chief, 4th Tank Bn.

Who could ask for Moore

By Sgt. Tisha L. Carter

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

She may be just another Marine sergeant to the rest of the Marine Corps, but this 5'4" powerhouse of knowledge, endurance and charm proved it's all about inner fortitude.

Not only did she come in number one in her Corporals Course, she swept away the squadron and group meritorious sergeant boards, Sgt. Melissa Moore, did it all while pushing herself to the limit everyday, raising her two-year-old son and donating her time to the community.

"She's an overachiever. She definitely doesn't settle for the minimums in anything she does," said Gunnery Sgt. Bobby Little, communications chief, Marine Air Control Squadron 1 Detachment Bravo. "When she sets goals, she definitely achieves them."

After graduating in 1997 from her hometown high school in Palm Bay, Fl., Moore, a communications technician for MACS-1 Det B, said she didn't know what she wanted to do with her life.

"I didn't really want to go to college," explained the Marine who had aspirations of becoming an actress as a child. "Some of my friends joined the Marine Corps, so I decided to go see a recruiter."

With the exception of her grandfather who is retired Air Force, she is the only one in her family to serve her country in the armed forces.

"My family didn't want me to do it," said Moore. "But they knew once I got my mind set on something they couldn't change it, so they didn't try to."

She has certainly proved herself ever since. According to Little, Moore has carried that mindset throughout her Marine Corps career, taking it all in stride.

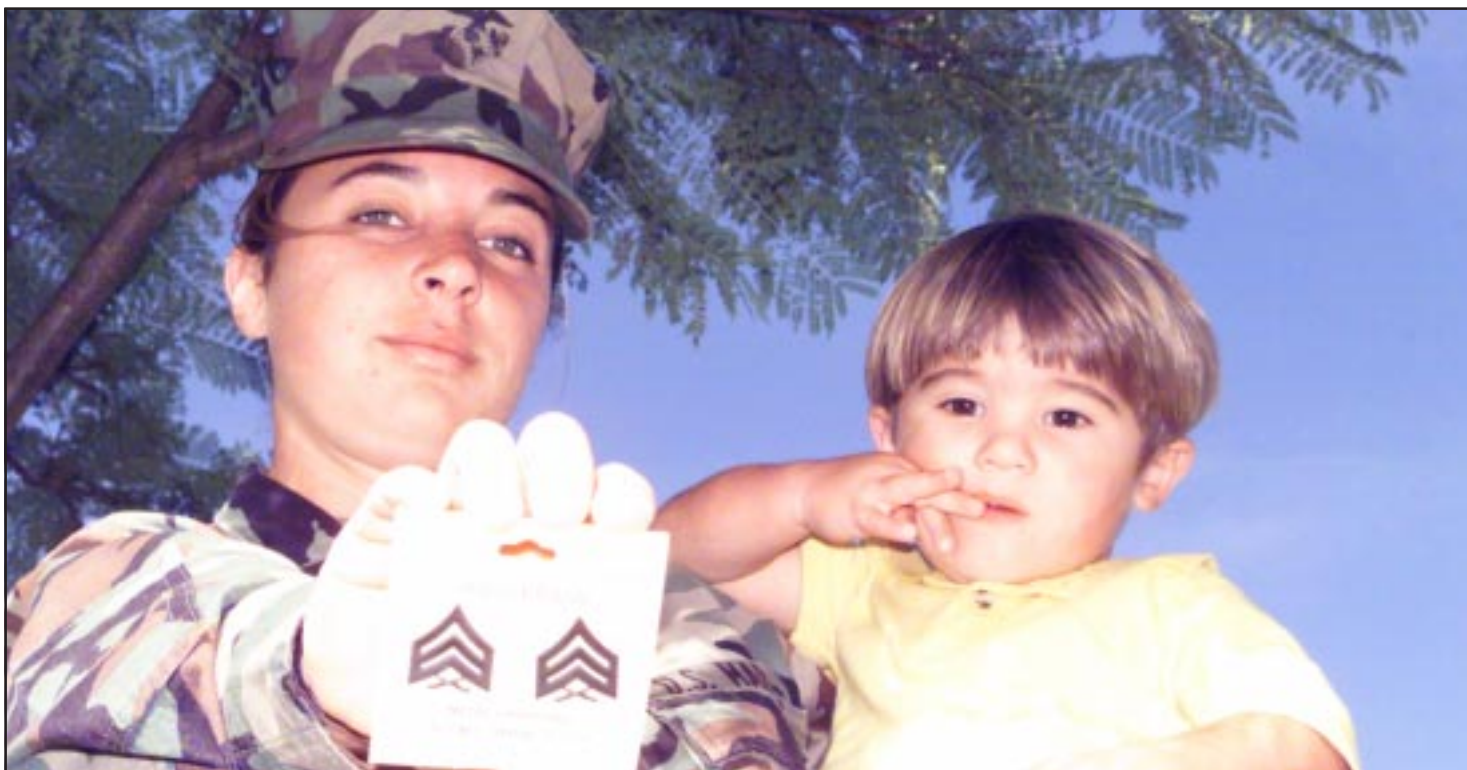
"She never makes excuses and she always goes that extra mile to make sure her child care and personal life are in order so that she can fulfill her duties as a Marine," boasted Little.

Moore has basically been a single mom since August when her husband Adam, also a sergeant, deployed with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable). But his call to duty and sudden absence from the family team during the middle of Corporals Course didn't slow her down.

Just five days after her husband's departure, the avid Tampa Bay Buccaneers fan, graduated number one in her class. She didn't stop there.

In preparation for the meritorious sergeant boards, a typical day began at 4:45 a.m. preparing her 2-year-old son Tyler for the day. Not only was she performing her day-to-day job with perfection, she stepped up as a corporal and served as the "buffer" between the gunnery sergeant and the troops in the absence of staff sergeants. When it was time for her lunch, Moore opted to spend that time, increasing her physical training.

Then while most people go home and



Sergeant Moore, with son Tyler, juggled work, a rigorous PT and study schedule, helping a local high school and tackling the "terrible two's" as temporary single mom — all to finish No. 1 in Corporals Course. Then she turned around to take the squadron and group boards for a meritorious promotion to sergeant. Photo by Sgt. Tisha L. Carter

AD space

Semper Fu

HMH-462 'enters the dragon'

By Sgt. Mike Camacho

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

The Heavy Haulers of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 recently set a squadron goal. The plan is to qualify all of their devil dogs in the Marine Corps' new martial arts program. While their goal isn't a difficult task, the trend is few and far between at Miramar.

According to Gunnery Sgt. Douglas Henry, HMH-462 chief martial arts instructor, the helicopter squadron is motivated and dedicated to becoming combat ready.

"We want to have everyone trained in

at least the first syllabus of the program," said the 38-year-old London native, Henry. "We'd really like to get these leathernecks in gray belts, but we'll have to see what happens," added the brown-belted instructor.

To redirect this dream from fantasy to reality the squadron took appropriate measures to equip themselves with adequate tools to train. They have in their arsenal, six certifiably trained martial arts instructors. Henry said that number should grow.

Training all of the staff noncommissioned officers first was Henry's idea.

"It's important to lead the way for those

Marines under you to follow," said Henry. "When they see the pain in your face, they get motivated and are eager to do it themselves."

Since the implementation of the new Marine Corps hand-to-hand combat training, Marines seem to be curious and ready to interact with the program.

"Whether or not Marines may think it now, they joined the Marine Corps to become warriors," said Henry. "This training is encompassing both the skills and combat conditioning, so these guys will know what it feels like to become totally exhausted and still fight."

While this training isn't the common trend throughout the Air Station, HMH-462's example may set a precedent that could motivate some to follow.

"Maybe when we all come back trained and with belts, it'll put the pressure on the other squadrons to catch up," said Henry.

By taking the initiative to proactively train the Marines in the martial arts program, HMH-462 will not have to worry about reacting if it becomes top priority.

"It's important to knock new training out like this," said Staff Sgt. Jason Cohen, HMH-462 airframes chief. "Because

sooner or later, it could become an important part of the promotion system.

Basically, in the long run, it will only make us a better squadron."

The 26-year-old

Cohen,

said the

training

has given

many of the

Marines a

flashback to

boot camp.

"If you

think you can

train to get

ready for this,

you're

crazy,"

said the

Atlanta

native. "It

hurts out here."

According to 25-

year-old, Staff Sgt. Dennis Herold, HMH-462 martial arts instructor, the old Linear In-fighting Neural-override Engagement training was about half of what the first syllabus encompasses.

"We demand a lot from these Marines," said the Sandusky, Ohio native, Herold. "You can see the pain on these guys' faces. They know it's all worth it though."

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462's goal, once attained, could make them one of the leading squadrons on the Air Station in martial art combat readiness.

Henry said, "Maybe others will follow."



Gunnery Sgt. Edward Anderson, martial arts instructor, HMH-462, parries a right-handed punch during a period of instruction. Photo by Sgt. Mike Camacho



A line of Marines practice kicks and counters. Photo by Sgt. Mike Camacho



Staff Sgt. Dennis Herold, martial arts instructor, shows a student the correct way to counter a kick. *Photo by Sgt. Mike Camacho*



Martial art instructors from HMH-462, Gunnery Sgt. Edward Anderson and Staff Sgt. Dennis Herold, demonstrate a counter-to-a-rear choke hold while students observe. It's a rare moment when students are able to rest during the fast-paced and exhausting training course. *Photo by Sgt. Mike Camacho*



Staff Sgts. Jason Cohen and Derrick Franklin exchange blows during a sparring session as a part of the Marine Corps' martial arts program. *Photo by Sgt. Mike Camacho*

Tan Belt Syllabus

There are three basic fundamentals of disciplines:

- 1. Mental
- 2. Physical
- 3. Character

There is a total of 27.5 training hours. There are no prerequisites for tan-belt training. For more information on the Marine Corps martial arts program, contact your unit training office.

AD space

December 7, 1941, Japanese planes attacked the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor killing more than 2,300 Americans. Sixty years before Sept. 11, America was attacked from the air by surprise. The USS Arizona was sunk and the USS Oklahoma capsized. The attack sank three other ships and damaged many other vessels. More than 180 aircraft were destroyed.

The official word of the attack was a hurried dispatch from the ranking United States Naval officer at Pearl Harbor, Commander in Chief Pacific, to all major Navy commands and fleet units reading simply:

AIR RAID ON PEARL HARBOR X THIS IS NOT A DRILL

By Staff Sgt. Bill Lisbon
and Sgt. Matthew Shaw

CPAO, MCB Camp Pendleton

Several local men recall their day at ground zero – Pearl Harbor.

Jim Evans, U.S. Marine Corps

Seventeen-year-old Pfc. Jim Evans readied himself for guard duty in his barracks at Naval Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, when he heard loud booming. He thought it strange civilian contractors would be working that Sunday morning, Dec. 7, 1941. Next he heard the sound of rounds raining on the station, but having never heard it before, he didn't know what to make of it. Then, the zipping of planes overhead.

"Damn Army is really going to catch hell for buzzing the station," he said. Then one of his noncommissioned officers came running into the barracks: "Grab your rifles! We're under attack!"

Ammunition lockers opened. Bando-liers were tossed to the men.

By then, Evans and the Marines of his guard company had seen the attacking Japanese planes fly right beside the barracks as they finished an attack run and turned to go for another. If they could put a machinegun on the roof of their barracks, the Marines might be able to take out some planes.

Evans scurried up a ladder to a hatch opening to the roof and swung it wide as a "zero" flew by.

"It just seemed like I could reach out and touch him. I made eye contact with him. He looked like he was grinning. He was probably having a hell of a good time at that point," he said. Evans, now 77, recalls the day vividly from his home in San Marcos.

About this time, word reached Evans that there was no ammunition for the large machine gun they had hoped to place on the roof. So with a Browning automatic rifle, he took shots at the pilots.

"Trying to hit a plane going 200 mph with an (infantry) rifle is a gesture in futility," he said.

From his vantage point, Evans could see the rest of the air station, including hangars and planes, aflame.

As the second wave came, Evans was helping evacuate women and children from the base's family housing to an ammunition bunker via automobiles.

"They must have thought we were a convoy, because they strafed us a bit," he recalls. But the second attack did little more damage because the base was already crippled and the majority of the planes lost.

"There wasn't much more they could do," he said.

"Parky" Parkinson, U.S. Navy

On board the USS Oklahoma, sailor Francis R. "Parky" Parkinson had just finished breakfast.

"We were sitting around as servicemen do – complaining, complaining cause it was Sunday morning and we had to get ready for an admiral's inspection for Monday," he remembers.

Then the ship shuddered. Japanese

aerial torpedoes lain open her port side.

"All hands man your battle stations," rang throughout the ship.

Parky, then 22, worked in the ship's boiler room. "That's as far down in the ship as you can go," he said.

He didn't stay there long. The ship began to take on water and the torpedoes had torqued the ship so none of the hatches could be secured properly. The Oklahoma slowly started to tip over.

When the command to abandon ship was given, Parky began the long ascent. When the ship was almost completely on its side, he couldn't reach the edge of the next hatch.

An officer behind him pushed Parky up by his feet far enough so that he could reach.

"When I looked back to see if I could help him, he had slipped back down, and I'm sure that he didn't make it. So he did save my life," said Parkinson, now 82, of Vista.

Once outside and walking down the

See **Attack**, page 10

AD space



Jim Evans, U.S. Marine Corps Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Lisbon

On your mark ... Get set ... Go

Service members, civilians lace up running shoes, hit streets for Toys for Tots, USO

By Cpl. Mark Ledesma

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

United Service Organizations and Toys for Tots kicked off their annual 8k run, 5k run/walk and kids candy cane 1k stroll Dec. 1 here.

Participants for the event were asked to bring new, unwrapped toys to donate to the Toys for Tots foundation.

Because of heightened security, attendance for the event was lower than previous years.

"We had about 400 pre-race entrees and 100 or so day of-race entrees," said retired Col. Ken Jordon, vice president, USO Board of Directors. "It's less than in the past because of security precautions aboard the base. We couldn't allow any nonmilitary identification card holders to sign in the day of the race. Because of that there were about 300 to 400 less runners."

"We passed the word out to the civilian community as best we could that this year day-of-race entrees will not be accepted," said retired Col. Regan Wright, USO Executive Director. "We would usually have 100 or more runners show up at the last minute, but because of the security we didn't have any."

Even with the heightened security, the event went on without a hitch. Runners from everywhere came to participate and enjoy the event.

"We're really pleased to be here," said Roy Adams from La Cima Fire Center, who came along with fellow firefighters to compete in the team events. "This is our third year here. Everyone did a great job. We'll be back next year."

"This is my first time participating in this event," said Ian Carson of Wrexham, Wales. Carson travels to California every Thanksgiving holiday to participate in marathons. He found out about the event



Taylor Gonzales, 3, from Oceanside is presented with a medal from Cpl. Robert L. Coffman, military policeman, after finishing the kids candy cane 1k stroll. All children participants at the run received a medal. Photo by Cpl. Mark Ledesma

on Race Place, a newsletter for runners on the Internet. "It was a very good and well organized event."

Different teams such as corporate, military and Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps were categorized to competed amongst each other in the run.

"We have a lot of military teams out here," said Wright. "Miramar has a team, MCRD has a team and even Camp Pendleton has one."

"We came here to beat the wing," said 20-year-old Cpl. George Howard, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and Missoula, Mo., native, whose team came in first in the military category. Toys brought by runners filled the Toys for Tots truck, and the entire event generated more than \$10,000 for the San Diego's downtown and airport USOs.

AD space



Five-hundred fourteen runners participated in a 5k and 8k USO and Toys for Tots Run Saturday aboard the Station. Photo by Cpl. Mark Ledesma

“It seemed like I really became a man after that,” he said. “It made me mature really fast.”

AD space

Safety,
continued from page 2

tremendously with this type of format for a safety stand-down.

“The classes I went to were pretty good. They reinforced (safety information) Marines should already know,” said Darnell.

“All in all I know we have saved at least one Marine’s life and given them the tools to teach their families some safety tips too, which made the fair well worth the effort by many MAG-16 Marines that helped to bring this event to fruition,” said Sanny.



Moore,
continued from page 5

unwind after a full day at work, Moore was just beginning again. After stashing away time for Tyler every evening, Moore also managed to squeeze in volunteer time. She volunteered to help a local high school cheerleading team prepare for competition and occasionally she has time to catch her favorite NASCAR driver, Dale Earnhardt Jr. race. However, before she could lay her head down at night, she still studied her Marine Corps knowledge.

“I did a lot of Internet research learning Marine Corps knowledge. I have over 300 flash cards,” said Moore. “It made for long nights, really long nights.”

The board called for more than just knowledge. Moore had to prepare for drill and two uniform inspections, run a PFT, and give a five to seven minute primary military instruction class.

Pushing herself everyday, Moore knew nothing would be handed to her on a platter. She increased her PFT score to a perfect 300, constantly strived to get good proficiency and conduct marks, and after not qualifying on the rifle range back in February, she came back and shot high

expert, with the second highest score out of the entire range detail.

“I like to work with her because she is always consistent and she comes to work and puts forth her best effort everyday. You never get anything less,” Cpl. Jeffrey Yarborough, navigation aids technician, MACS-1 Det. B, proudly proclaimed of his peer and friend of nearly four years.

According to Yarborough, the situation with her husband on the MEU is pretty tough on her because of her child, but she still comes to work everyday, never has an excuse and always gets her job done.

“It is awesome to see somebody that dedicated, especially on the boards. Some people would just give up and say ‘forget the Marine Corps,’ but she doesn’t do that,” he said.

When Moore was asked what advice she had to give Marines about success, she said not to listen to negativity.

“It will just bring you down and affect the way you think. A lot of people look into what other people say about them, they take it to heart and then say ‘forget this, it isn’t even worth it,’” stated Moore.

“If you want it bad enough and you work hard enough for it, it will all fall into place. Look at me.”

Flight Jacket

Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon
Commander, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area

Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr.
Commanding General, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

Maj. T.V. Johnson *Public Affairs Officer*
1st Lt. Joshua Rushing *Deputy PAO*
2nd Lt. John E. Niemann *Managing Editor*
Staff Sgt. Micheal Mink *Information Chief*
Sgt. A.C. Strong *Press Chief*
Sgt. Tisha L. Carter *Assistant Press Chief*
Cpl. Scott Whittington *Editor*
Sgt. Carolyn S. Sittig *Editor*
Combat Correspondents
Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.
Sgt. Mike Camacho
Cpl. Mark P. Ledesma
Cpl. C.A. Eriksen
Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

The Flight Jacket is published every Friday at no cost to the government by Military Guides, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Navy or the U.S. Marine Corps under an exclusively written contract with the U.S. Marine Corps. This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for the military services, contents of the *Flight Jacket* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy, or the U.S. Marine Corps. It is for informational purposes only and in no way should be considered directive in nature. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, or the Military Guides, of the products or service advertised. Everything advertised in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. All queries concerning business matters, display ads, or paid classified ads should be directed to Military Guides, 9580 Black Mountain Road Suite C, San Diego, California 92126, or (858) 547-7343.